

Program Productivity Review

Biennial productivity reviews are a central part of the council's streamlined academic program policies approved in 1999. Programs are reviewed if they award, on average, fewer than 12 associate, 12 baccalaureate, seven master's, or five doctoral degrees over a five-year period. Since the first program productivity review in 2000, universities have eliminated, consolidated, or altered more than 300 programs.

In July 2002, 64 programs were placed on continued review status after the universities' proposed program alterations or justifications were deemed unsatisfactory. Universities were given until December 2002 to respond to the council staff's recommendations for increasing program productivity. In response, the universities made additional changes to 46 of the programs. To allow time for changes to take effect, these programs will not undergo a productivity review in 2004. They will be reevaluated in 2006, as council policy requires.

Because the council staff has determined that the universities have not taken adequate steps to increase enrollment or degree productivity, the remaining 18 programs will stay on continued review. These programs will be reviewed again in fall 2004. If the program addresses a state need or critical shortage area, staff will work with the university to implement improvements. For other programs, if productivity remains low, program closure will be recommended at that time.

Attached is the list of programs originally placed on continued review. The chart identifies those programs for which changes have been accepted (pending review in 2006) and those that will remain on continued review as the council staff works with the universities to increase productivity.